



Lynette Holloway, telemedicine coordinator, is shown here with the new Polycom VSX 3000 desk top video system. Designed to provide video conferencing in an office environment, this state-of-the-art portable video conference equipment will make connecting sites quicker, easier and more convenient for staff.

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Video conferencing saves time and reduces travel

The Michigan Department of Corrections is leading the pack when it comes to the use of video conferencing for Parole Board interviews and telemedicine. In 2004, the department added 32 video conferencing rooms and five telemedicine sites bringing the total number of available sites to 64 at 39 separate locations.

The video conferencing units allow for parole hearings, misconduct hearings, administrative meetings and witness testimony without the transportation costs and risks to public safety necessary for face-to-face meetings.

This year, all immigration hearings for prisoners were done by video conference as well. In addition, all future Social Security Administration hearings for prisoners will be conducted over video conferencing.

Telemedicine provides for patient/doctor consultations including emergency psychiatric evaluations. At locations with electronic stethoscopes, doctors can listen to a patient's heart and lung functions. Scopes are available that can transmit sensitive information about the ears, eyes or skin to a specialist at Duane Waters hospital or another location. Doctors are able to view x-rays or reports immediately. Dr. Craig Hutchinson, regional medical director for Correctional Medical Services, often consults with patients from his office. Prisoners can confer with dieticians and mental health professionals as well. The reduced transportation costs and more efficient use of time are prudent in today's economic environment.

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The Michigan Department of Corrections is recognized throughout the country for its success in telemedicine and video conferencing. Corrections officials and health care providers from many other states have consulted with DOC staff while starting projects of their own.

Lynette Holloway, telemedicine coordinator, Bureau of Health Care Services, is charged with keeping the growing number of video conferencing sites in service as well as coordinating the set up of any new sites.

“With new units going in all the time and trouble shooting at various sites, it becomes pretty challenging trying to keep everything up and running,” said Holloway.

The use of video conferencing is expected to expand throughout the department, state government and the state and federal court system.

Currently there are more than 90 district, circuit and probate courts with video conferencing capability and the department is developing a protocol for video hearings and witness testimonies with the state court administrative office. All federal district courts in the state are equipped to conduct video conferencing and its use for prisoner witness testimony is becoming the standard.

“It’s realistic to anticipate that in the next five years every facility will have video conferencing capabilities,” said Holloway. “Right now we’re running on a T1 line which is a phone line. As soon as the state’s wide area network (WAN) and the DOC’s area network are able to handle the traffic, we’ll go to an Internet Protocol or IP network.”

The Department of Information Technology (DIT) is working to get the state on a single IP Network. The new line will be more versatile and reduce scheduling issues that result from limited network capabilities. In addition, the costs would be lower since phone line charges would not apply.

With a statewide IP network, all equipped DOC locations as well as all state departments and agencies would have video access. At this time, seven other state departments or agencies have video conferencing capability.

DOC will still use its current technology, a T1 line, to reach any outside agencies such as county and federal district courts but all state and department-wide communications would be handled on the IP network which does not have a per-minute charge like a phone line. This will make its application for telemedicine and Parole Board functions even more cost effective.

Carson City and Macomb correctional facilities are scheduled for telemedicine installation this year while some of the more remote locations including Camp Kitwen, Camp Lehman, Camp Manistique, Camp Ottawa and Camp Tuscola are set for video conferencing.

2004 Video conferencing facts

The department conducted more than 10,000 video encounters in 2004.

Of those, 5,265 were video parole hearings conducted by the Parole Board.

The Hearings Division conducted an estimated 3,600 video hearings in 2004.

There were over 655 telemedicine encounters in 2004 bringing the total to more than 6,000 since the inception of the program in 1996.

There were an undetermined number of Immigration and Social Security hearings.

An unspecified number of court hearings and administrative meetings were held.

In addition, Governor Jennifer M. Granholm visited Central Office and addressed DOC employees across the state in a video conference last year. Two central office conference rooms linked with 25 locations state wide connecting more than 500 DOC staff members with the Governor for an interactive visit.

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Video conferencing saves time and reduces travel

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On occasion, the same equipment can be used for telemedicine and parole or misconduct hearings but scheduling often becomes an issue. In most cases, telemedicine equipment is installed in the facility's health care area and video conferencing goes in the front of the facility to accommodate visitors.

While the momentum behind the expansion of the video conferencing is a push by the Parole Board to make their hearing process more efficient and the Bureau of Health Care to provide more efficient access to health care services, they are not the only areas that will benefit from the expansion of the video conferencing project.

"Each administration has a representative on the Video Conference Committee," explained Holloway. "That way we are all moving in the same direction."

The Michigan Prisoner Re-entry Initiative (MPRI) is expected to rely heavily on the technology.

The department is currently assisting the state court administrative office in the development and implementation of prisoner child support re-adjudication hearings. These hearings will take place over video conferencing with the Friend of the Court in four piloted counties. In the future, DOC will work with county offices via video conference setting up support teams for prisoners ready for re-entry. The potential also exists for prisoners to use the technology for job interviews while they are still incarcerated. By the time a prisoner is released from prison he or she could have a job lined up and a complete support network set up for parole activities all through the use of video conferencing. *J.Y.J.*

RUO Paul Haynie builds for Habitat in Mexico



For two weeks in October, Resident Unit Officer Paul Haynie, Pine River Correctional Facility, was among 4,000 Habitat for Humanity volunteers from around the world who were in Mexico on a mission to build 150 houses.

RUO Haynie and 17 other volunteers worked alongside former President and First Lady, Jimmy and Rosalyn Carter on a house in Vera Cruz.

This was RUO Haynie's fifth trip to Mexico for volunteer work.

"Not only would I do it again but I would recommend this experience for everyone," said RUO Haynie. *J.Y.J.*

At left is the volunteer group pictured with RUO Paul Haynie who is in the back row, right wearing a cowboy hat.

Juvenile Diabetes research aids Jackson youth

Over the past four years, staff at the Southern Michigan Correctional Facility (JMF) have raised more than \$25,000 for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. Fundraising through cook outs, JMF Inmate Benefit Fund donations, family and friends and committed volunteering at the Michigan International Speedway accomplished this spectacular contribution.

Volunteers throughout the MDOC worked with JMF staff this past summer raising more than \$7,500 in conjunction with *Sammy's Team*. *Sammy's Team* was organized by RUM Terri Huffman who has a 12-year-old son who was diagnosed with Type I diabetes when he was five.

Because of those donations and the research that has been made available, Sam is now on the Minimed Insulin Pump and enjoyed a steak dinner for the first time without having to take a shot. Because of the pump, Sam no longer has to take the six insulin injections a day that he was previously taking.

The development of the pump and all the technology associated with it were made available because of the research money that comes from grassroot fundraising such as that done for *Sammy's Team*.

JMF has been represented at the Jackson Walk to Cure Diabetes for the past four years. If you are interested in fundraising and joining the walk please contact Terri Huffman at 517-780-6540. *J.Y.J.*

Attention all NERE employees: Changes are effective Jan. 1, 2005

The Civil Service Commission (CSC) has approved the reinstatement of the Banked Leave Time (BLT) program for all Non-Exclusively Represented Employees (NERE) employees. If you are covered by a bargaining unit, please refer to your contract for any changes to your pay or benefit structure. Effective with the pay period beginning January 2, 2005, employees will accrue four hours of BLT and have their gross pay reduced accordingly. The January 27, 2005 paycheck was the first one affected and the program will continue for 21 pay periods through the November 3, 2005 paycheck.

The Department of Information Technology (DIT) has once again modified the time sheets to reflect the BLT, and the revised time sheets are now available on the Department of Corrections intranet. In addition to BLT, the CSC has also approved the following:

- Expansion of the current School Participation Leave provisions to also include Community participation. This was effective January 1, 2005. Watch *J.Y.J.* for more details as they are announced.
- Increase of the annual leave maximum accumulation cap at each level by 40 hours, while leaving the payoff caps the same. This was also effective January 1, 2005.
- Addition of Election Day as a new holiday to be observed on General Election Day in even numbered years.

For Fiscal Year 2005-06, the CSC has approved a one percent across-the-board pay increase effective October 1, 2005 and another one percent across-the-board pay increase effective April 9, 2006. Additional information can be found at <http://www.michigan.gov/mdcs/0,1607,7-147-67757-,00.html>. *J.Y.J.*

\$25,007 raised for Tsunami relief effort



From left: Julie Southwick, Administrative Assistant, A&P presents a check to Terry Hickey, Mid Michigan Red Cross Chief Development Officer and Sarah Clevenger, Mid Michigan Red Cross Community Relations Coordinator while John Rubitschun, Parole Board Chair, receives a Standing Ovation Citation from the Red Cross in recognition of staff efforts.

MDOC's January 11 department-wide Tsunami relief casual day raised a total of \$25,007 for the American Red Cross Tsunami relief efforts.

"I am overwhelmed by this outpouring of compassion and I want to thank each of you for your generous support of this vital effort. This significant donation to the Red Cross relief effort will help many homeless and distressed victims," said Director Patricia L. Caruso.

According to Terry Hickey, Mid Michigan Red Cross Chief Development Officer, the donation is the largest that the local office has received from non-corporate sponsors.

"Your generosity proves once again that the Michigan Department of Corrections employees are caring and compassionate individuals who never refuse an opportunity to offer assistance to those in need," said Director Caruso. **7.4.1.**

Warden Cindi Curtin takes over at Oaks

Cindi Curtin has been named Warden of the Oaks Correctional Facility. She previously served as Deputy Warden of the facility under Warden Dave Gundy who has recently retired.

Warden Curtin's appointment was effective January 30, 2005.



Hutchinson receives award

RUO Richard Hutchinson, Riverside Correctional Facility, was awarded the department's Citizenship Award for his actions in attempting to save the life of a heart attack victim.

RUO Hutchinson, an avid runner, performed CPR in an effort to save the life of a fellow runner at a race last summer. Other runners kept running but Hutchinson stopped and assisted the fallen runner. **7.4.1.**

Central Office collects 21 boxes of goods for troops



From left: Cindy Peto, Pat Brubaker, Marie Darnell and Renee Scott with three of the 21 boxes of contributions.

This year Central Office held a collection for items needed by military personnel in Iraq instead of the more traditional toy collection they have organized in the past. A total of 402 pounds (21 boxes) of snacks, games, reading material and other needed items were collected for the troops.

Pat Brubaker, Cindy Peto, Marie Darnell and Kami Pasch spearheaded the collection with the help of employees from Central Office, the Ingham County Probation Office, Ingham County Parole Office, Lansing Area Office, DeMarse Training Academy, the Electronic Monitoring Center and Michigan State Industries. In addition, Lisa Gros, Donna Weber and Brock Elliott were instrumental in helping to sort, pack, weigh and measure the 21 boxes.

Central Office employee and author, Dale Lehman, donated 150 copies of his book, *Chili with Cheese for Guys*. Lansing area dentist Dr. Douglas J. Hinterman (Pat Brubaker's dentist) donated over 100 toothbrushes and several tubes of toothpaste and bottles

of mouthwash. Local VFW Posts donated phone cards and other items as well.

The goods were sent in memory of Lance Corporal (LCPL) Justin Ellsworth who was killed in Iraq. Justin's aunt Judy Bishop works in the Parole Supervision Unit at Central Office, and employees thought it would be fitting to send the boxes in Justin's memory to share with his unit. The collection of items was sent to LCPL Cody Light who served in LCPL Ellsworth's unit and was one of his best friends.

Staff also included a letter thanking the soldiers for their bravery and sacrifice. *F.Y.I.*

Saginaw inspectors receive awards



RPA James MacMeekin presented Saginaw Correctional Facility Inspectors Frederick J. Funston and Patrick G. Merry with the Meritorious Service Award. Their outstanding investigations and strong working relationship with outside police agencies has provided essential information for use by law enforcement in coordinating surveillance and arrests outside the prison facility.

From left: Inspector Frederick J. Funston, RPA James MacMeekin and Inspector Patrick G. Merry.

Facility trainers receive instruction on the Prison Rape Elimination Act program

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) of 2003, signed into law by President George W. Bush, is aimed at increasing the attention paid to the problem of sexual assault in prison and to improving the detection and prevention of sexual assaults by prisoners.

In conjunction with that law, the Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) was successful in obtaining a \$1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Justice to implement the requirements of the new law which focuses on eliminating the sexual victimization of any individual while in a MDOC facility. The grant covers research and training as well as technological upgrades to existing computerized systems that will enhance the tracking of rape and sexual victimization allegations and allow for standardized reporting and trend identification.

As part of the MDOC PREA initiative, 35 Institutional Training Officers (ITO) completed their orientation at a train-the-trainer session in Jackson last week.

The ITOs will coordinate the training for all staff at their individual facilities. All MDOC staff who work in a facility and all FOA staff who have prisoner contact are

required to take the training. In addition, all CFA staff will soon be required to participate in the training.

Wardens and administration staff completed their training in 2004. With the ITO instruction accomplished, training of front line staff will soon be underway.

The department's proposed PREA initiative encompasses both prisoner-on-prisoner sexual assaults and staff sexual misconduct. The MDOC efforts will be focused on detection, prevention, treatment and punishment for sexual aggressors. The training will also serve to reinforce the department's zero-tolerance policy for any type of sexual assault or misconduct.

Above and at right below: Facility trainers complete an exercise at the train-the-trainers class held last week in Jackson.

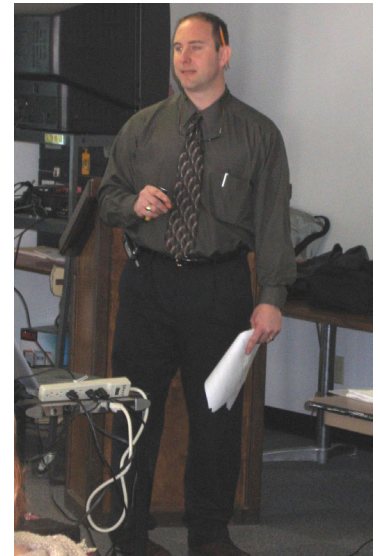
A specialist team working with Dr. Merry Morash at Michigan State University is analyzing all sexual misconducts (033) as well as all sexual assaults (013) for the last five years. This is the first step toward developing a profile of Michigan prisoners who are potential victims or perpetrators.

Another group is developing specialized training for inspectors who will coordinate investigations of any alleged prisoner-on-prisoner assaults in conjunction with the state police.

Nancy Zang, grant administrator, and her team have already pulled together the data needed to respond to the first survey required by the new law.

"We're making good progress toward compliance with the new federal law," said Zang. "Training is well underway and as we expand that instruction we will be upgrading some training equipment at both the facility level and DeMarse Academy."

MDOC February 3, 2005



Terry Evans, Academy Trainer, DeMarse Training Academy, covers the PREA topics for facility trainers.



A letter to staff from Director Patricia L. Caruso

Dear Department of Corrections Staff:

As a follow up to Governor Granholm's letter to you about mentoring, I would also like to encourage you to become a mentor to a young person in your community.

As corrections employees we see first hand the results of a lack of positive adult involvement in a child's life. Every day we deal with the aftermath of lives that have been shattered and families destroyed because of influences that can be traced back to inadequate adult support. We also know first hand how lives can be turned around with the guidance of positive role models. Time spent with a caring adult can have a tremendous impact on an impressionable youngster.

Corrections employees are well known for their involvement in their communities. If you are one of the many DOC personnel currently working with a child, please continue your important efforts. If you are not already involved in mentoring, I'm asking you to consider taking an hour once a week or once a month to connect with a child.

Many state employees have up to eight hours of school and community participation leave available for activities such as this. Check with your bargaining unit for details or visit the Office of the State Employee Web site at www.michigan.gov/ose.

Thank you for your consideration.

Patricia L. Caruso
Director, Michigan Department of Corrections

MDOC joins with other state employees to feed the hungry

The Department of Corrections donated a total of \$3,173 to the Harvest Gathering in 2004 bringing the State of Michigan employee total for last fall's campaign to \$29,320 and 93,090 pounds of food. That \$29,320 will provide at least 586,400 meals for hungry people throughout Michigan (at least 20 meals per dollar donated). The final amounts for all Michigan Harvest Gathering 2004 donations came to \$293,495 and 633,724 pounds of food. [F.Y.I.](#)

You can submit a photo for the MDOC screen savers

Do you have a great digital photo of the Michigan landscape? Please consider submitting your photos of parks, lakes, rivers or streams, a waterfall or even a favorite campground for use as a department screen saver. On our next season of screen savers you will see some of Michigan's most interesting lighthouses.

Send your photos or direct your questions to Gail Madziar in the Office of Public Information and Communications at madziagl@michigan.gov. [F.Y.I.](#)